

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-03 PM-03 SPC-01 L-02 EUR-10 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9483

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T TOKYO 1047

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ZMO. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, CH, JA

SUBJ: ASST. SEBY INGERSOLL'S MEETING WITH FONMIN OHIRA

REF: (A) TOKYO 283; (B) TOKYO 284; (C) TOKYO 354; (D) TOKYO 355; (E) TOKYO 688

SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH FONMIN OHIRA, ASST. SECY INGERSOLL DISCUSSED OHIRA'S RECENT TRIP TO PEKING AND PM TANAKA'S SE ASIAN TOUR. OHIRA INDICATED THAT SEEKING BREAKTHROUGH ON AVIATION AGREEMENT WAS PRIMARY PURPOSE IN GOING TO PEKING AND SAID HE REACHED ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT WITH CHINESE DURING TRIP. OHIRA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE HE EXPLORED FOR FIRST TIME BROAD RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. MOST INTRIGUING REVELATION BY OHIRA WAS THAT CHOU SUGGESTED TO OHIRA THAT CHINA, JAPAN, AND US SHOULD MAINTAIN SECRET

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FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH IMPLICATION THAT ENTENTE

AMONG THESE POWERS WOULD AFFORD PROTECTION
FROM SOVIET THREAT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING WITH FONMIN OHIRA, JANUARY 22,
EA ASST SECY INGERSOLL INQUIRED ABOUT OHIRA'S
JANUARY 2-6 TRIP TO PRC AND PM TANAKA'S TRIP TO
SE ASIA. REGARDING CHINA TRIP, OHIRA EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH PEKING'S
LEADERS HAD MOVED FOR FIRST TIME BEYOND BILATERAL
MATTERS TO EXCHANGE ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. IN
DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST, CHINESE WELCOMED
POSITION JAPAN HAD TAKEN VIS-A-VIS ARABS AND
POINTED OUT NEED TO HEED VOICES OF THIRD WORLD.
OHIRA BROACHED SUBJECT OF PRC'S IMPROVING RELATIONS
WITH ROK (AT ROK'S REQUEST) BUT WAS REBUFFED WITH
STANDARD PRC POSITIONS SUPPORTING DPRK. OHIRA
DOUBTED THAT PRC POSITION BASED ON CONCERN THAT
RELATIONS WITH BOTH KOREAS WOULD SET PRECEDENT
WHICH COULD BE APPLIED TO TAIWAN. PRC TRIED TO
OBTAIN MORE FAVORABLE GOJ ATTITUDE TOWARD PRG,
BUT OHIRA REITERATED THAT GOJ RECOGNIZED
GVN AS SOLE LEGAL GOVT OF SVN WHICH PRECLUDED
ANY RELATIONS WITH PRG.

2. MOST INTERESTING NEW WRINKLE WAS CHOU'S
DISCUSSION OF SOVIET THREAT. WHILE REVIEWING
WELL-KNOWN VIEWS ABOUT SOVIET'S CURRENT TARGET
BEING EUROPE, CHOU SAID U.S. WAS USSR'S PRIMARY
ENEMY WHILE JAPAN AND CHINA WERE NUMBERS TWO
AND THREE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CHOU
SAID IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR CHINA, JAPAN AND
US TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS. CHOU ALSO
SAID THAT USSR KNOWS PRC COULD BE FORMIDABLE
ANTAGONIST SHOULD QTE SHARP ISSUE UNQTE ARISE
BETWEEN THEM. BOTH MAO AND CHOU PRAISED VIGOROUS,
BUT DELIBERATE, AND GOOD-HEARTED QUALITIES OF U.S.

3. ON BILATERAL MATTERS, OHIRA SAID MAIN ISSUE
WHICH PROMPTED HIS VISIT TO PEKING WAS AVIATION
AGREEMENT. OUTCOME WAS AS EXPECTED. OHIRA RECEIVED IMPRESSION
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CHINESE ACCEPTED GOJ POSITION AND INDICATED WILLINGNESS NOT TO
INSIST ON CHANGE IN TAIWAN AIRLINE'S FLAG AND
NAME. OHIRA SAID THAT GOJ INFORMED GRC
OF POSITION PRIOR TO VISIT, AND THAT GRC RESPONSE
NOTED AGREEMENT ON SOME POINTS AND DISAGREEMENT
ON OTHERS. HOWEVER, OHIRA ACKNOWLEDGED RUEFULLY THAT
HE FACED DIFFICULTIES IN CLEARING FORMULA
FOR AGREEMENT WITHIN LDP IN FACE OF OPPOSITION

BY MANY TAIWAN SYMPATHIZERS. OHIRA ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO PURSUE DISCUSSIONS OF FISHERIES AND SHIPPING AGREEMENTS AND ALSO TREATY OF PEACE AND AMITY.

4. IN BRINGING UP PM TANAKA'S TRIP TO SE ASIA, ASST. SECY SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS A MAJOR ELEMENT OF DISTURBANCES DURING TRIP STEMMED FROM GRIEVANCES AGAINST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, OHIRA SAID THAT PM NOT DISPLEASED, DESPITE UNEXPECTED LARGE SCALE OF DEMONSTRATION, BECAUSE VISIT AFFORDED HIM FIRST-HAND VIEW OF SITUATION. OHIRA NOTED THAT DISTURBANCES, WHICH WERE LABELLED QTE STUDENT UNQTE DEMONSTRATIONS, IN FACT INCLUDED MOSTLY UNEMPLOYED DAY LABORERS INFLUENCED BY QTE MOB PSYCHOLOGY. UNQTE. GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, ACCORDING TO OHIRA, EXPRESSED REGRET FOR THESE DEMONSTRATIONS. QTE INDISPUTABLE FACT UNQTE OF SEA NATIONS RELIANCE ON JAPAN INDICATED, SAID OHIRA, BY SEA GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS DESIRE FOR ASSURANCES BY PM TANAKA THAT JAPAN WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPLY THEM ESSENTIAL MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY OIL-RELATED PRODUCTS, SUCH AS FERTILIZER. AT SAME TIME, HE EMPHASIZED THAT JAPANESE SHOULD CORRECT INSENSITIVITIES, GOVERNMENTAL AND BY BUSINESSMEN, AND STRIVE TO TAKE LOCAL INTERESTS AND CUSTOMS INTO CONSIDERATION. IN HIS VIEW JAPANESE NEED TO REFLECT DEEPLY ON THEIR CLOSED COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMERCIAL PRACTICES.

5. COMMENT: OHIRA WAS OPEN AND WILLING TO RELATE
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CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS IN CHINA AND PM TANAKA'S TRIP TO SE ASIA. HE WAS ALSO OBVIOUSLY COMFORTABLE, INTELLECTUALLY AND POLITICALLY, WITH FACT AND IMPLICATIONS OF MULTI-POLAR DIPLOMACY AND PLEASED TO BE IN LEAGUE OF THOSE, WHICH INCLUDES CHOU EN-LAI, WHO CAN ADDRESS AND PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL DIPLOMACY. REMARKS ELABORATE TO SOME EXTENT AT AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL EARLIER REPORTS (REFTELS). MOST STRIKING ELABORATION IS CHOU'S EDGING NEAR EXPLICIT ADVOCACY OF ENTENTE AMONG CHINA, JAPAN, AND US TO DEAL WITH SOVIET AMBITIONS. SHOESMITH

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